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HEADQUARTERS
NINETY-SECOND BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF (E-A-8)
Office of the Operations Officer
APO 634

5 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Report on Planning and Execution of Operations of Mission 4 March 1944.

TO : Commanding Officer, 92nd Bombardment Group (H) AAF, APO 634.

1. Comment on Planning and Execution.

The bomb loading for this operations was received from Headquarters 40th Combat Wing by Capt. McLaughlin at 2126 hours 3 March 1944. The order called for thirty (30) B-17's from the 92nd Bomb Group to be loaded with a maximum load of M-47A1 Incendiary Bombs, plus one (1) aircraft from the 482nd Bomb Group.

The Field Order was received from Headquarters 1st Bomb Wing by Capt. McLaughlin at 0100 hours 4 March 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0515 hours and take-off time 0815 hours.

2. General Narrative.

A. Main Group Formation (Lead Composite Wing).

1) Take-off was accomplished by seventeen (17) B-17's from the 92nd Bomb Group plus one (1) B-17 from the 482nd Group, beginning at 0816 hours. The assembly for these aircraft was made on the 40th Combat Wing Buncher at an altitude of 11,000 feet, as shown in Diagram "A". The formation departed the assembly point as scheduled at 0948 hours, flying as Lead Group of the Composite Combat Wing, which was the last Combat Wing of the First Division. Wing rendezvous was completed along the first assembly leg from Podington to Banbury.

2) The route over England was followed according to the flight plan, and the English coast was departed at 1018 hours. The enemy coast was entered at 1036 hours, and the Wing formation followed the proposed flight plan until a call was received from the Air Division Commander to abandon operations. The Composite Wing being in the vicinity of Bonn, Germany, at this time, decided to use this town as a target of opportunity. The aircraft from the 482nd Group established the I.P. at 1157 hours and a bomb run was made using blind bombing technique, because the target was obscured by 10/10 cloud cover. The Lead and Low Groups of the Composite Wing released their bombs on the aircraft from the 482nd Group at 1202 hours at an altitude of 24,800 feet on a magnetic heading of 205 degrees.

B. 92nd - 303rd Composite Group (Low Group).

1) Take-off was accomplished by thirteen (13) B-17's from the 92nd Bomb Group beginning at 0827 hours. These aircraft assembled, as shown in Diagram "C", at 9,000 feet on the 40th Combat Wing Buncher, where they were joined by seven (7) B-17's from the 303rd Group which formed the High Squadron. The formation departed the assembly point at 0948 hours as Low Group of the Composite Combat Wing, and rendesvoused with the Lead Group along the Wing assembly line from Podington to Banbury.

2) For further details of the mission, reference is made to the General Narrative of the Main 92nd Group Formation.

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3. Aircraft Not Attacking.

Thirty-one (31) aircraft including one (1) aircraft of the 482nd Bomb Group took off on the mission. One (1) aircraft, No. 42-30644, assembled with another Group which abandoned the mission at mid-channel and this aircraft returned early. Two (2) other aircraft which became dispatched but were forced to turn back were Nos. 42-3536 and 42-30638. Three aircraft, Nos. 42-30849, 42-37877, and 42-3493, returned early due to mechanical failures.

The remaining twenty-five (25) aircraft flew the entire mission. All aircraft landed at base.

4. Aircraft Lost.

None.

5. Statistical Summary (Includes one (1) A/C of the 482nd Group).

		MAIN GROUP	COMPOSITE GROUP	TOTAL
a.	Number of A/C taking off:	18	13	31
b.	Unused Spares:	0	0	0
c.	A/C Taking off less Unused Spares:	18	13	31
d.	Number of A/C Dispatched:	15	12	27
e.	Number of Sorties:	15	12	27
f.	Number of A/C Attacking:	13	12	25
g.	Number of A/C Not Attacking:	5	1	6
h.	Number of A/C Lost:	0	0	0

Robert B. Keck

ROBERT B. KECK,
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

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LEAD GROUP OF COMPOSITE COMBAT WING AT ASSEMBLY — DIAGRAM "A"

MAIN 92ND GROUP — GROUP FORMATION - DATE: 4/3/44

LEAD: 325th SQ.

LOW: 325th SQ. — LEAD A/C. 482ND GRP. — HIGH: 327th SQ.

	G 1248		G 7877		G 1536		G 7479		
F 0261		G 8025		G 1978		G 8101		G 1713	
	G 3496		G 1231		G 3536		G 1277		
G 9958		F 0638				G 3493		F 0644	

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LEAD GROUP OF COMPOSITE COMBAT WING AT TARGET — DIAGRAM "B"

MAIN 92ND GROUP FORMATION - DATE: 4/3/44

LEAD: 325th SQ.

LOW: 325th SQ. — LEAD A/C 482ND GRP. — HIGH: 327th SQ.

G 1248 — G 1231 — G 1536 — G 7479

F 0261 — G 8025 — G 1978 — G 8101 — G 1713

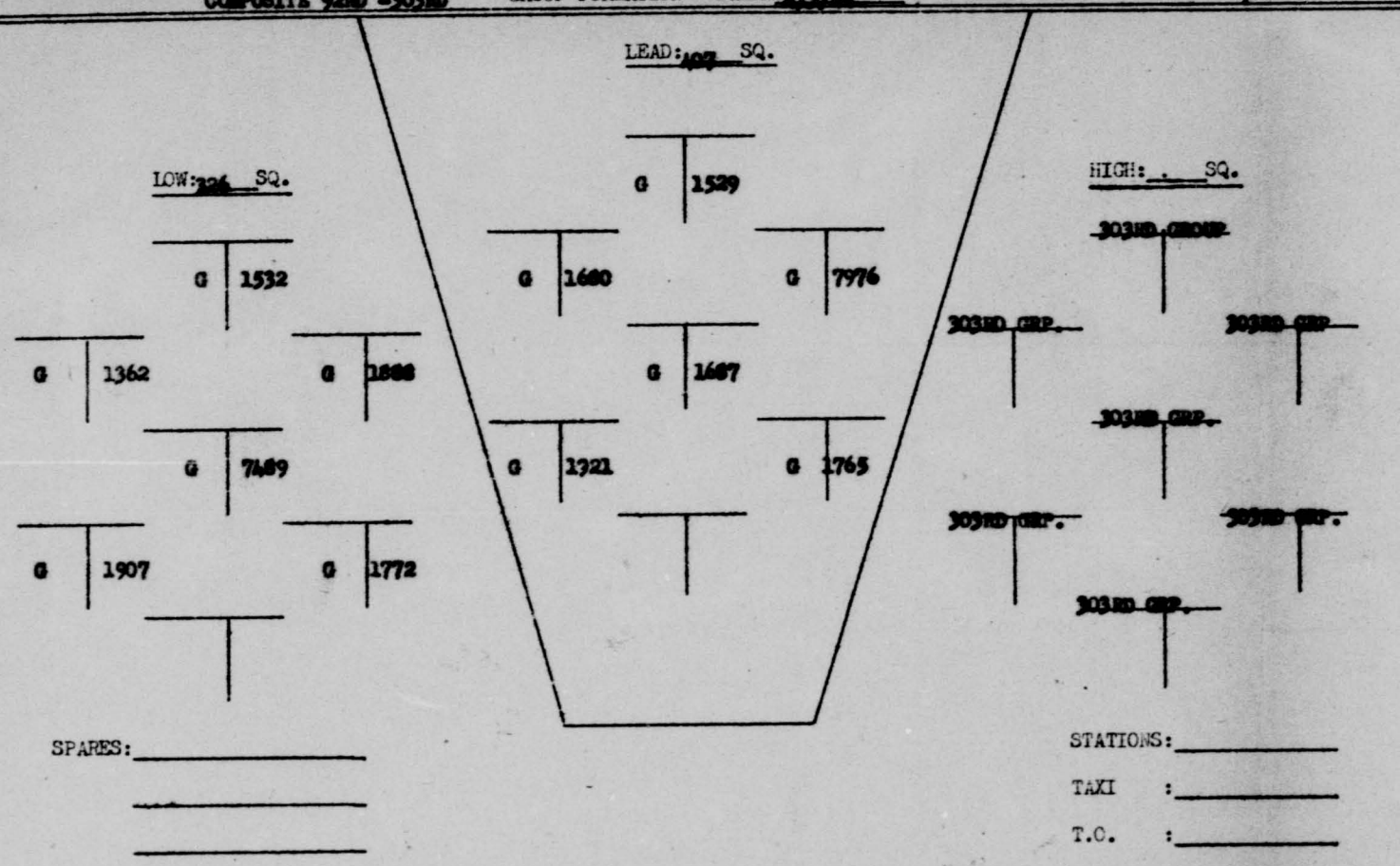
G 3496 — G 1277

G 9958

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DIAGRAM "C" — LCH COMPOSITE GROUP AT ASSEMBLY AND OVER TARGET — DIAGRAM "C"

COMPOSITE 92ND -303RD — GROUP FORMATION - DATE: 1/3/44



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